



Ike Cohen's 95th Birthday Bash was the biggest and best ever

Dutch hotelier extraordinaire Ike Cohen celebrated his 95th birthday as he has done every year now for the last ten, by inviting all of Aruba and its visitors to share the occasion with him. This much-anticipated event, which took place this past Saturday night, June 03, broke all records with a pre-sale of 750 celebrants that came to wish Ike well on his special day.

Ike, an activist in humane treatment for animals, and many other charities on the island had the idea ten years ago to hold a birthday bash for the public at his Manchebo/Best Western Beach Resort. Ike donated everything it takes to make a great party, ample food, free-flowing bar, and a terrific band. Many happily donated the fee to attend this great party, of which 100% is donated to a worthy cause. In the past, a number of charities have benefited from his generosity and that of his guests, and this year the White-Yellow cross has been designated to be the beneficiaries of his efforts.

Not only was all time favorite Claudius Phillips and his band Oreo on hand to entertain under the canopy of the chapel by the beach, but this year The Mancebo introduced their house band "The Cooks," who kept the party lively for those in the main dining room. Four buffet stations were set up to handle the crowd, so there was little waiting on line to enjoy the fabulous dinner and that left plenty of time to dance the night away. The dance floor never saw an empty moment as Claudius and his band entertained with everyone's favorite island and Latin sounds, he had everyone "Rocking Around the Clock."

This year's fundraising goal is an ambitious 500,000 florins to provide all the special needs for the elderly, who the White-Yellow Cross provide care for, aside from their infant wellness care and inoculation service, and home care for the sick and disabled. Special beds, commodes, wheelchairs and other equipment will be purchased with the funds, and a storage facility constructed.

Even if you missed the dance, you can still contribute to the cause by visiting Stichting Ike Cohen auction website at : <http://www.cmarket.com/catalog/landingPage.do?vhost=ikecohen>. There you will find a Royal Caribbean Cruise, a private charter for forty aboard the Jolly Pirates, one year of lottery tickets, a week at any Marriott Vacation Club resort anywhere in the world and 104 more great items to bid for that have been generously donated by various vendors. All monies will be contributed to the White-Yellow Cross. The auction continues until July 1, so check out the many great items that have been donated, and bid generously, it is all for a worthwhile cause.

THE NEWS wishes Ike many more years of wonderful birthday parties!